

Message

From: ECOS [ecos@ecos.org]
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To: Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]
Subject: Steep STAG Cuts Proposed, Last Call Issued for ECOS Spring Meeting Hotel

Steep STAG Cuts Proposed, Last Call Issued for ECOS Spring Meeting Hotel

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President Trump Seeks Major Cuts to U.S. EPA Budget, STAG in FY 2020 Request

On March 11, the White House Office of Management and Budget released President Trump's budget request to Congress for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. The *Budget for a Better America* would cut U.S. EPA funding by about 25%, a slightly milder proposal than the 30+% cuts sought in Trump's FY18 and 19 budgets. EPA also released its *Budget in Brief* companion document offering programmatic detail on Trump's proposal.

The FY20 budget is notable for its significant \$1.4B cut to the State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) account, a steeper cut than the last two years that would reduce STAG funds by more than a third to \$2.7B. The budget would eliminate a number of STAG grants, especially targeting voluntary programs. A Trump administration spokesperson this week acknowledged that despite the Trump Administration's support for cooperative federalism, "we do ask states to step up and to perform some of the activities that they should also be contributing towards." The budget does establish several new STAG grants aimed at improving child safety and public health conditions at schools.

This week's announcement was met with widespread agreement that the proposal would have little effect on the course of appropriations; even with the previous Republican-led House, Congress continued to hold EPA funding steady from Obama administration levels. The first FY20 Interior-Environment appropriations hearing was held in the House last week, and ECOS plans to submit written testimony to the subcommittee.

Check out ECOS' summary chart of the FY20 President's Budget [here](#). Please refer to the

footnotes for information on our methodology, as some sources may differ in how they reflect supplemental and transferred funds. [McAleer]

New Regulation Navigation Tool Available for State Testing



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U.S. EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) has completed the draft version of a new interactive, online Regulation Navigation (Reg Nav) tool – *Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources: Municipal Solid Waste Landfills, 40 CFR Part 60, Subpart WWW*. EPA has made the tool available for beta testing by state partners. Please send any comments or questions to Melissa Payne and Brad Johns of EPA by COB on **March 29**.

Reg Nav tools, funded in part by E-Enterprise for the Environment, have initially focused on five complex air rules to help the regulated community determine the requirements of specific regulations through a series of directed questions. A few months ago, EPA put together a list of potential new Reg Nav tools based on rule flow charts created by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and reached out to ECOS seeking state input on which regulations to prioritize when creating new tools. Now that the municipal solid waste landfills tool is almost complete, EPA will move on to additional regulations highlighted by the states. [Poole]

ECOS Issues New Draft Agenda for Spring Meeting *Reserve at Hotel by March 18 or Sooner*



ECOS today issued a new [draft agenda](#) for the action-packed **April 7-10** Spring Meeting in Crystal City, Virginia on *Partnership in Action: Advancing Collaboration, Certainty, & Confidence*. If you haven't yet reserved your hotel room, do so by **March 18 to receive the special ECOS rate at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel**.

Confirmed keynoters include U.S. EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Senate Environment & Public Works Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-DE). Mary Neumayr, Chairwoman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, will speak during a states-only session. In the spirit of collaboration, the meeting also will feature discussions with U.S. EPA Associate and Regional Administrators and a dinner reception at the Canadian Embassy.

Sessions will touch on a range of timely topics: oil and gas methane, stormwater and nutrient management, air monitoring for emerging contaminants, water system compliance, environmental justice, digital transformation, permit timeliness, regulatory compliance, PFAS, recycling, the energy/environment nexus, renewables, budgets, state legislative relations, and more.

Register for the meeting by March 29 to receive the regular rate. See registration, hotel, and contact information [here](#). [Parisien]



State News You Can Use

[California Issues First-of-its-Kind PFAS Action](#)

[New Jersey Sets New Interim Groundwater Quality
Standards for PFOA and PFOS](#)

[Iowa Reports Strides in Meeting Nutrient Reduction
Strategy Goals](#)

[New Hampshire Hosts Interactive Photo Map Contest](#)

**Need-to-Know News in Environmental Data &
Air**

DMWG Shifts Focus to Digital Transformation with New Digital Strategies Forum (DSF)

Area of Focus: Environmental Data

The ECOS Data Management Work Group (DMWG), which was created to help commissioners collaborate on state information technology operations and plan for future environmental information and technology challenges, has a new name – the Digital Strategies Forum (DSF). The DSF will continue the work of the DMWG with a heightened focus on how state agencies are developing digital strategy frameworks and navigating a changing IT landscape.

The DSF is open to ECOS members and other state staff, and is composed of individuals knowledgeable about state information systems, projects, and future plans. The DSF welcomes participation from all states and territories active in ECOS.

For more information about the charter, or if you are interested in joining the workgroup, please reach out to Layne Piper or Connor MacCartney of ECOS. [MacCartney]

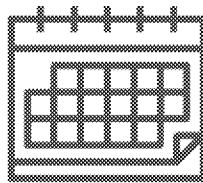
U.S. EPA Proposes Regulatory Changes to Ethanol Blended Gasoline

Area of Focus: Air

On March 12, U.S. EPA proposed regulatory changes to allow gasoline blended with up to 15% ethanol (E15) to take advantage of the 1-psi Reid Vapor Pressure (RVP) waiver for the summer months that has historically been applied only to E10. Under the proposed expansion, E15 would be allowed to be sold year-round without additional RVP control, rather than just eight months of the year.

EPA is also proposing regulatory changes to modify elements of the renewable identification number (RIN) compliance system under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program to enhance transparency in the market and deter price manipulation.

For more detail on the proposed reforms to RIN markets, please visit EPA's website. [Poole]



Upcoming Events

U.S. EPA on Removing Chemicals of Emerging Concern

U.S. EPA will hold its monthly Tools and Resources Webinar on **March 20 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern** to highlight cost effective treatment technologies for removing chemicals of emerging concern (CEC), including PFAS. CECs, chemicals that have not previously been detected in water or that are being detected at significantly different levels than expected, pose numerous challenges to drinking water treatment plants. This presentation will discuss three CECs (PFAS, cyanotoxins, and perchlorate) and discuss cost-effective solutions for small systems.

Register [here](#). [Longworth]

ITRC on Long-Term Contaminants Using Institutional Controls



The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) will hold an online training course on *Long-term Contaminant Management Using Institutional Controls* on **March 21 at 1-3:15 p.m. Eastern**.

Institutional controls (ICs) are administrative or legal restrictions that provide protection from exposure to contaminants at a site. When ICs are jeopardized or fail, direct exposure to human health and the environment can occur. After attending the training, participants will be able to: describe best practices and evolving trends for IC management at individual sites and across state agency programs; use the [associated ITRC guidance](#) to improve

existing, or develop new, IC management programs; and use the tools to establish a Long Term Stewardship (LTS) plan for specific sites.

Register [here](#). [Olonoff]

U.S. EPA on the ORD Sustainable and Healthy Communities Research Action Plan

U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) will host a webinar for states on its Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Strategic Research Action Plan (StRAP) and Research Area Teams on **March 21 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern**. The webinar will provide a high-level overview of SHC's draft StRAP and its related teams, including contaminated sites, waste and sustainable materials management, and healthy and resilient communities. ORD has already held draft StRAP webinars for three other research programs (Air and Energy, Homeland Security, and Chemical Safety for Sustainability), and will hold a webinar on its Sustainable Water Resources research program in the coming weeks. For a copy of the draft StRAP, email [Sarah Grace Longworth](#) of ECOS.

To attend the webinar, see [here](#). The call-in number is 866-299-3188, with code 202-564-6669 for audio. Please share this information with your staff and other agencies in your state that deal with these topics. [Longworth]

ITRC on PFAS Contamination



The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) will hold an in-person training class on *PFAS Contamination* in Boston, Massachusetts on **March 29 at 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Eastern**. The training event will explore the key elements for characterizing and managing PFAS-impacted sites. Registration is free for state staff, and travel scholarships are available for state staff traveling more than 50 miles to attend.

Please contact [Tadbir Singh](#) of ITRC for more information. Learn more [here](#). [Olonoff]

U.S. EPA and Army Corps on WOTUS

U.S. EPA and Army Corps of Engineers are hosting various opportunities for state input on

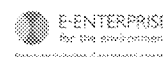
the proposed Waters of the U.S. Rule as part of the public review process. EPA and the Army will host half-day discussions for state officials, which will allow for state input on the proposed new definition and implementation considerations. Remaining state meetings follow:

March 26 in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Register for this meeting [here](#).

April 3 in Seattle, Washington

Register for this meeting [here](#). [Piper]



E-Enterprise Combined Air Emissions Reporting Team on CEDRI

The E-Enterprise Combined Air Emissions Reporting (CAER) Team will host a webinar on **April 1 at 3–4:30 p.m. Eastern** for states, EPA, and others to hear the latest updates to the Compliance and Emissions Data Reporting Interface (CEDRI) and the Facility Widget. This work will be helpful in the broader effort to develop a process for reporting to four air databases including the National Emissions Inventory (NEI) via delegated state programs, and direct reports to federal databases including the Toxics Release Inventory, Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, and compliance reporting requirements for Part 60 and Part 63 regulations via CEDRI. The webinar will include information on the purpose of CEDRI, an overview of the Federal Registry System Risk and Technology Review project, and a demonstration of the facility widget used in submitting data to EPA.

Register [here](#). [Poole]

U.S. EPA on ECHO behind the Scenes

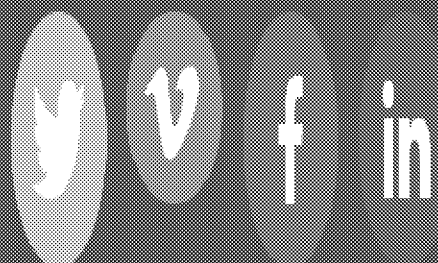
U.S. EPA will hold a webinar on the Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) database on **April 9 1:30-2:30 pm Eastern**. During this webinar, EPA will go “behind the scenes” of ECHO, answering questions about environmental data such as:

- From which EPA program systems does ECHO retrieve data?
- How frequently are the data updated, and how do I make corrections?

- How can I download ECHO data?
- What are ECHO web services?

If you are interested in a specific topic or would like to suggest a question to answer during the webinar, please send feedback to [ECHO Support](#). Every six months U.S. EPA will highlight a different feature of ECHO, and each webinar will be recorded and shared on the [ECHO training page](#).

Register [here](#). [Piper]



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